



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (12-1318)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D., Commissioner Rita Hall and Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Call to Order. (12-1097)

**Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m.
Commissioner Grills joined the meeting at 10:31 a.m.**

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of March 14, 2012. (12-1098)

On motion of Commissioner Cheryl Grills, Ph.D., seconded by Commissioner Barbara Bigby, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Department of Auditor-Controller
Department of Children and Family Services
Internal Services Department
Department of Mental Health
Probation Department
Sheriff's Department (12-1077)

Department of Auditor-Controller and the Sheriff's Department had no one present to speak before the Commission.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Ms. Elizabeth Howard, CSA III, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported that during the period from February 17, 2012 to March 20, 2012 DCFS' hotline received 17 child abuse allegations in the following categories: six reports of general neglect, four reports of sexual abuse, four reports of physical abuse, and three reports of emotional abuse. These allegations are pending investigation.

Internal Services Department

Mr. William Kiriya, Manager II, Maintenance Operations Division, Internal Service Department (ISD), reported that the Youth Career Development Department along with the Fifth Supervisorial District will host job fairs throughout the year to assist in obtaining permanent jobs and to advertise the program. The program features various trades such as: Clerical, Information Technology, and Construction. Additionally, Mr. Kiriya informed the Commission that the Los Padinos roof repair project is 70% complete and they are anticipating a full completion in one month. Vice Chairperson Bacio recommended that ISD check Los Padinos Special Handling Unit (SHU) for repairs. Mr. Kiriya will report back to the Commission on the party responsible for repairing that unit.

Department of Mental Health

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, LCSW, Residential/TBS Support Unit, Department of Mental Health (DMH), attended the meeting on behalf of Paul McIver, LCSW, District Chief, Countywide Children's Case Management and Program Administration, Department of Mental Health (DMH), reported that they are working on two projects. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that in June 2011 Service Provider Area three (SPA 3) received a high volume of crisis calls involving levels 12 and 14 group home providers. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that training was made available to group home providers to coach them on the procedures and protocols to follow before calling the Psychiatric Mobile Response Team (PMRT); as a result calls have decreased tremendously. Further, she discussed the KDA project in which the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Children and Family Services partnered in training Social Workers on alternative

methods of approaching families from a strength and needs basis and not as authorities. She also informed the Commission that this approach has helped in reuniting families and having children placed in permanent housing.

Probation Department

Ms. Lisa Campbell-Moten, Director of Placement Permanency & QA of the Probation Department (PD), reported there were 102 Absent Without Leave (AWOL) incidents, eight were repeat offenders, 51 remain AWOL, 26 returned to group homes, and 17 were placed in Juvenile Hall. One child abuse report in February at Eddie Lee Group Home that was unfounded, eight Group Home investigations; all eight were unfounded. Ms. Moten also informed the Commission that the Probation Department received state approval to open more foster homes.

Following discussion Ms. Moten announced "The System Improvement Plan" annual event will be held June 27, 2012, she will follow up with more information.

3. Chairperson's Report on Various items for March 21, 2012. (12-1099)

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles with the Commission:

Los Angeles Times:

- **Improper Delays Alleged (March 17, 2012)**
- **Sheriff's Air Unit Bosses Accused of Deliberate Delays (March 17, 2012)**
- **Coaxing Children to Talk About Crime (March 19, 2012)**
- **Whom Does Secrecy Serve? (March 19, 2012)**
- **Graffiti Cop Answers Scrawl (March 19, 2012)**
- **Helping Children Who Can Testify (March 19, 2012)**
- **An Expert on the Tagging Culture (March 19, 2012)**
- **Part of Troubled Lockup Could be Shuttered (March 21, 2012)**
- **Baca Could Shut Part of Jail (March 21, 2012)**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Treasurer's Report for March 21, 2012. (12-1100)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund remains at \$552.46.

5. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports for March 21, 2012. (12-1105)

There was no report given.

6. Commissioners' Reports on Group Homes and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from March 15, 2012 to March 20, 2012. (12-1111)

During the reporting period the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- **Commissioner Bigby visited Life Circles Group Home 24 #4, on March 15, 2012.**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Five Acres 17 #4, on March 20, 2012.**
- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited Ettie Lee Home 16 #4, on March 20, 2012.**

During the reporting period the following Group Home/Facility was reported as being in unsatisfactory condition:

- **Commissioner Bigby visited Life Circles Group Home 24 #4, on March 15, 2012 and reported that the exterior and interior of the home was in poor condition, there was a limited amount of food and drinks, a limited amount of towels in the linen closet, new furniture was needed throughout the house, and the vehicle interior was poor and the exterior needed body work. Commissioner Bigby reported the staffs response for the house being in this condition is because the facility is preparing to move. Bigby stated this facility will be reported to the Child Abuse Referral Hotline and she will follow-up in this facility in thirty days.**

During the reporting period the following Group Homes were visited but not inspected:

- **Chairperson Montano visited Children's Home of Southern California**

9 #1, on March 19, 2012, however no one was home.

- **Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Hall visited Teen's Happy Home 40 #4, on March 15, 2012, however no one was home.**

III. PRESENTATIONS

- 7. Presentation on the Requirements to Administer Psychotropic Medications provided to foster youth.**

Lisa Sorenson, Children's Services Administrator III
Office of Medical Director
Department of Public Health (12-1159)

Ms. Lisa Sorensen, Children's Services Administrator III, Office of Medical Director, Department of Public Health (PH), presented a PowerPoint presentation on the process of obtaining a Psychotropic Medication Authorization for various mental health patients and answered questions posed by the Commission.

Doctors Gia Crecelius and Jane Tesoro, Department of Mental Health (DMH), presented PowerPoint presentation on the Juvenile Court Mental Health Services and responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Ms. Sorensen stated that their main goal is to insure that no child is getting too much medication or too little medication but instead individualized treatment and the proper treatment. After discussion, by common consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
 [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

- 8. Presentation on the Responsibilities of the Department of Children and Family Services Runaway Outreach Unit.**

Eric Ball, Supervising Children's Social Worker
Department of Children and Family Services (12-1104)

Mr. Eric Ball, Supervising Children's Social Worker, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), distributed handouts on the responsibilities of the Department of Children and Family Services Runaway Outreach Unit and their efforts to locate and place children back with their families. Mr. Ball stated that this program has formed mentoring relationships between Social Workers and children; the program allows more time for Social Workers to focus on youth and gets youth involved. The program has led to

more permanent placement and helped in the research process. Mr. Ball also stated the different methods that have been helpful in locating children have been; warrants given directly to him, the I-Track System, and Facebook.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

9. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Commission subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-1112)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-1113)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

11. Adjournment for the meeting of March 21, 2012. (12-1115)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.